



P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
☎ +31 70 340 2040
TX 31651 epo nl
FAX +31 70 340 3016

Eur päisches
Patentamt

Zweigstelle
in Den Haag
Recherchen-
abteilung

European
Patent Office

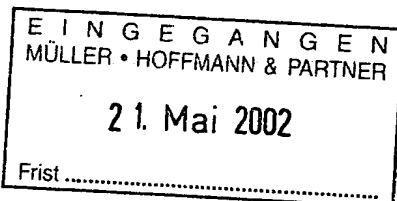
Branch at
The Hague
Search
division

Office européen
des brevets

Département à
La Haye
Division de la
recherche

599P0570

Müller - Hoffmann & Partner
Patentanwälte,
Innere Wiener Strasse 17
81667 München
ALLEMAGNE



21.05.02

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

51695

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

99110878.8-2202-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire
SONY CORPORATION

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☐ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
P,X	EP 0 908 957 A (CANON KK) 14 April 1999 (1999-04-14) * page 5, line 53 - page 6, line 53; figures 4,5,7,8 * * page 6, line 54 - page 7, line 36; figures 9,10 * ----	1-3,7,9, 10,12,15	H04N3/15 H01L27/146
E	US 6 115 066 A (WONG HON-SUM PHILIP ET AL) 5 September 2000 (2000-09-05) * column 4, line 14 - column 5, line 44; figure 4 * ----	1-3,7,9, 10,12,15	
A	EP 0 757 475 A (CANON KK) 5 February 1997 (1997-02-05) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04N H01L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 10 May 2002	Examiner De Paepe, W
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 11 0878

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

10-05-2002

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0908957 A	14-04-1999	JP 11112018 A	23-04-1999
		CN 1217618 A	26-05-1999
		EP 0908957 A2	14-04-1999
		TW 419835 B	21-01-2001
US 6115066 A	05-09-2000	NONE	
EP 0757475 A	05-02-1997	JP 3149126 B2	26-03-2001
		JP 9045887 A	14-02-1997
		JP 9200614 A	31-07-1997
		EP 0757475 A2	05-02-1997
		US 5698844 A	16-12-1997